

SENATORS ON FRAUDS

Accusation About the Repeal Bill and Its Phases.

RAILROAD CORPORATIONS

Senator Clark Says They Are Pressing the Bill.

LAND OWNER BOASTS

House Continues Work on Sundry Civil Bill.

Washington, March 31.—The attention of the senate was divided today between the bill for the repeal of the desert land law and the bill for the repeal of the timber and stone and the homestead competition laws and the postoffice appropriation bill.

The repeal bill was taken up only for purpose of discussion and Mr. Clark was the principal speaker. He contended the position taken by Mr. Patterson that there have been great frauds in the administration of the land laws in the west. He declared that there is a lobby in Washington in the interest of the repeal bill and engaged in a short colloquy with Mr. Patterson, during which each characterized the statement of the other as untrue.

The general debate on the postoffice bill was confined largely to a speech by Mr. McCleary and interruptions by Republican senators. Mr. McCleary charged in the main that the policy of an early adjournment of congress had been adopted in order to avoid legislation not desired by the Republican leaders.

CRITICIZED LAW.

Mr. Clark criticized the operation of the forest reserve law, saying that under it two-thirds of the area of his own county had been withdrawn from entry. This was not the fact of the law, nor were the frauds committed under the desert land law or the timber and stone act chargeable to the law. Moreover, he did not believe that the frauds are as extensive as charged. For himself he was not willing to admit that the people of his state are engaged in theft. He admitted the great benefits of the homestead act in the past, but contended that unduly by other laws this could not be used as a vehicle for the settlement of the arid region.

Mr. Clark spoke of the work of the commission recently sent into the west to investigate the operations of land laws and commended the president for his course in this matter, saying that it is sufficient defense against the charge of impetuosity made against the president, chief executive. He charged the agitation for a repeal of the land laws to the owners of large bodies of railroad grant lands in the west. The effect of the repeal, he said, would be to take out of the market every acre of public land. But the public lands still would be sold, Mr. Clark said, and he outlined a system of substitution by means of forest reserve scrip secured through the disposition of railroad lands in forest reserves for other lands, saying that if Mr. Gibson's bill should become a law the value of all this land would be doubled. He added:

"Never in the history of land legislation has there been such a determined, so well organized lobby as is behind this legislation and which has been pressing it for the last three years. It is no secret that one of the largest holders of these lands has been a public banker recently that he had contributed \$25,000 for the purposes of this bill."

NAME DEMANDED.

Mr. Gibson and Mr. Patterson both demanded the name of the man in question, but Mr. Clark declined to give it to the senate, saying that he would not enter into personalities of that character in the senate, but he would give the name to any senator who might wish it.

"I think," said Mr. Patterson, "that the name should be given here. That man should be known and be branded throughout the country."

Proceeding, Mr. Patterson demanded that Mr. Clark should say who constitutes the lobby here in the interest of the repeal bill.

Mr. Clark again declined, but said the senator from Colorado knew who constituted the lobby.

Mr. Patterson replied promptly:

"When the senator from Wyoming says that I know who constitute the lobby of which he complains, he speaks loudly and without justification. There is not one word of truth in that statement."

Mr. Clark replied that he had meant merely to say that Mr. Patterson must have observed the lobby, and he withdrew the statement that the Colorado senator had positive knowledge of its existence.

Replying, Mr. Patterson admitted his sympathy with a movement for the repeal of the land laws, and said that his sympathy was due to the fact that he lives in a public land state and had had opportunity to observe the operations of these laws. He expressed the opinion that eight out of ten acres of land in Colorado and Wyoming had been secured through fraudulent means.

Mr. Clark said: "I know nothing about conditions in Colorado, but what the senator says of Wyoming is unqualifiedly untrue."

POSTOFFICE BILL.

The postoffice appropriation bill was taken up. Mr. McCleary read from the message of the president in regard to the first assistant postmaster general's office and of the indictment against Hoover, Mischen, Tyler and other officials to show conditions in the department, which, he said, warranted and made necessary an investigation.

"It has been a strange spectacle," said Mr. McCleary, "when members of the house of representatives who have demanded an investigation and reform have been compelled to abandon that request."

GENERAL STRIKE LIKELY.

Machinists of the Santa Fe May Walk Out Soon.

Chicago, March 31.—A general strike of the 1,000 machinists of the Santa Fe road from Chicago to California may be called within 24 hours, according to T. L. Wilson, fourth vice president of the International Association of Machinists. Mr. Wilson declared tonight that he had been in Chicago for a month in an effort to reach terms of agreement with the company, but had been unsuccessful, and charged that the company has been arranging for men to take the places of the union men if they strike.

and themselves have had to go before an investigating committee."

The policy of the Republican party in regard to immigration and statehood of Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma, was severely criticized by Mr. McCleary, who said Republican pledges had been broken. The reasons, said Mr. McCleary, are that the Republicans are getting ignorant foreign votes and fear they will not get the votes of the new states if they are admitted.

Mr. Dooliver spoke of the charges of corruption which the Democrats were making. All of these, he said, had been founded on Mr. Bristow's report, which was a great tribute to the integrity of the department.

Mr. Patterson interrupted that the investigations recommended by Messrs. Conrad and Bonaparte had not been undertaken.

Mr. Dooliver contended, however, that they had been made by the department in full.

The conference report on the agricultural bill was agreed to and after a brief executive session, the senate at 5:15 adjourned.

IN THE HOUSE.

Washington, March 31.—Consideration of the bill for the repeal of the desert land law was continued in the house today, and the bill was about to be passed when Mr. Sulzer forced a roll call on a motion to commit the bill with instructions to strike out the paragraph appropriating \$138,000 for rental of the New York custom house.

The vote showed a quorum was not present, and adjournment was taken until tomorrow.

The fight of boards of directors of state homes for disabled volunteer soldiers to retain certain portions of pension money received by the inmates, was discussed at length. Mr. Bell, of California, assailed his own state for permitting a contention to be established in the California home, and charged that the old soldiers were allowed to draw their pension money from the home in most instances only through canteen checks. After extended debate an amendment by Mr. Bell to correct the evils complained of was adopted.

A violent attack on the coast and geodetic survey was made by Mr. Robinson of Indiana, who charged that several attached to that office in connection with allowance for commutation of subsistence. Mr. Hemmaway, in charge of the bill, indignantly denied the charges made.

TRIED TO AMEND.

Mr. Hitchcock (Dem. Neb.) made an unsuccessful attempt to amend the bill by providing that no salaries shall be paid to United States district attorneys who for six months after the passage of the bill shall fail to proceed by suit in equity or criminal prosecution against persons, firms or corporations violating the anti-trust law.

Mr. Benton (Dem. Mo.) interrupted the reading of the bill to call attention to the remarks of himself and Mr. Hemmaway regarding the appropriation for furnishing the white house. He said he did not want to be put in the attitude of having suggested that a \$50,000 white house stable was desired when there was no foundation for the statement. He then asked for the estimate of the secretary of the treasury which included \$500,000 for a white house stable and read from the testimony of Col. T. W. Symonds, superintendent of public buildings and grounds, calling attention to the deplorable condition of the present stable. He also referred to a supplemental estimate of \$30,000 for the purchase of land upon which to erect the stable.

Mr. Mann made a point of order, which was sustained, against the last paragraph in the bill, providing that government carriages used for public purposes shall have painted thereon the name of the department to which they belong. Mr. Hemmaway got around a point by offering a substitute slightly different in language, but preserving the requirement of the original paragraph. The substitute was agreed to.

CALLED IT A GRAFT.

The use of public carriages for private purposes Mr. Baker characterized as "graft."

The house then reverted to the portion of the bill which temporarily passed over relating to the coast and geodetic surveys. Mr. Robinson (Indiana) openly charged malfeasance in the conduct of this office, which he said had approached a scandal. He offered an amendment requiring that the allowance shall not be made unless supported by properly authenticated vouchers.

Mr. Robinson's amendment was disagreed to.

Under a point of order the proviso prescribing the method of appointment and allowances for special agents and others in connection with timber depredation, etc., was stricken, as also was the proviso to the paragraph for transcripts of records and plats in the general office, restricting compensation of clerks to \$2 a day and providing that only one-twelfth of the appropriation shall be spent in any one month.

An amendment was agreed to appropriating \$30,000 for new machinery, furniture, etc., to complete the equipment necessary to inaugurate a college press at Denver.

The bill was about to be passed when Mr. Sulzer forced a roll call on a motion to recommitt with instructions to strike out the paragraph relating to the appropriation of \$138,000 for rental of the New York custom house, which paragraph he assailed. The roll resulted 84 yeas, 93 nays and seven "present," eight less than a quorum. Mr. Williams then moved to adjourn, which was carried.

Amid applause on the democratic side the house at 5:30 adjourned until tomorrow.

Washington, March 31.—The treasury department today transmitted to house an estimate from Secretary Hitchcock for an appropriation of \$100,000 to be immediately available for education in Alaska.

JURY BEATS BRYAN CASE

Sealed Letter Is Excluded from Bennett Will.

JURY SO DECLARES

Bryan Asserts That He Won't Use the Money Personally

JUDGE EAGER INSTRUCTS

Will Appeal the Question to Supreme Court.

New Haven, Conn., March 31.—A finding by which Philo Bennett expressed a wish that \$50,000 should be given to William J. Bryan and his family, was not a part of the last will of Mr. Bennett, was returned by the jury today in the superior court in the trial of Mr. Bryan's appeal from the decision of the probate court. This finding, which upholds the decision of the probate court, was given in accordance with instructions to the jury from Judge Gager, who presided at the superior court trial. Judge Gager's ruling, suggested a question which has never before come directly before the courts of Connecticut, decided that the sealed letter could not be admitted as evidence in the trial. The decision followed arguments which had occupied most of the two preceding days of the session, regarding the admissibility of this letter as evidence, counsel for Mr. Bryan contending that it should be admitted, while the attorneys for Mrs. Grace Imogen Bennett, the widow, and other heirs objected. Mr. Bryan's appeal was based on the exclusion of this letter as a part of the will in the probate court, the decision of Judge Gager that it could not be admitted as evidence practically concluded the proceedings in the superior court, and the jury was accordingly directed to bring in a verdict against Mr. Bryan. An appeal will be taken to the supreme court by Mr. Bryan's counsel on the ground that the letter should be admitted as a part of an established trust.

An interesting feature of the day's proceedings was a statement which Mr. Bryan made in court that he was willing to give a bond that in no case would the money mentioned in the sealed letter go to himself or family without Mrs. Bennett's consent.

Immediately after the decision was announced, Attorney Newton for Mr. Bryan asked for an exception to the ruling.

Judge Stoddard, counsel for Mrs. Bennett, suggested that the court give a ruling on all questions at once, as he thought it would be for the best interests of the litigants to get rulings on all points that could be ruled upon before the case should go up to the supreme court. Judge Gager then declared a recess.

When the recess ended Mr. Bryan was called to the stand by Attorney Newton. Mr. Newton asked Mr. Bryan to make a ruling on all questions at once, as he thought it would be for the best interests of the litigants to get rulings on all points that could be ruled upon before the case should go up to the supreme court. Judge Gager then declared a recess.

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OVER THE CATARACT.

Three Persons Plunged 210 Feet to Their Death.

Boise, Idaho, March 31.—Three persons plunged 210 feet to their death over the Shoshone falls of the Snake river about 9 o'clock last night. They were Miss Marie Willis, Samuel Graham and a man whose name is unknown. Miss Willis sometimes rides the ferry boat at this point. Last night she took the boat across in response to a call. On her return she found the guide rope was not working properly and put back. Graham and the other man seeing from the opposite side that she was in trouble, took the hotel skiff and crossed to the ferry boat. They took Miss Willis off and started back to the south bank. As the boat neared the shore it filled and went down, all three being lost. No trace of the bodies has been found today. Splinters of the boat were found in the river below the falls and it is supposed the bodies were carried over the cataract.

be me without the consent of Mrs. Bennett.

"I am willing to give bond," he went on, "that no member of my family will receive one cent of that \$50,000 without the consent of Mrs. Bennett."

Judge Gager then ordered the Bennett appeal stricken off the list. At this point the jury returned with a verdict excluding the "sealed letter" and the type-written copy of the same as evidence as a part of the will. The court then adjourned.

An appeal to the supreme court will be made at once.

FIGHTING IS SEVERE

IN BRITISH INDIA THERE S TROUBLE WITH NATIVES.

Thibeetans Attack the British Expedition and Are Repulsed.

Tuna, British India, March 31.—News has been received here of severe fighting the Tibetans having attacked the British mission under Col. Younghusband. There were two engagements, and the Tibetans were repulsed with heavy losses.

The British captured the Tibetan camp at Guru. While the British advance had practically been unopposed, the expedition suffered great hardship from the intense cold, and it was sometimes found impossible to use the marmos and rifles owing to the congealing of the oil. The country was of the bleakest, without a sign of vegetation, and the expedition had to face piercing winds and clouds of dust, while there was a heavy fall of snow last night.

At 5 o'clock this morning a flying column started to reconnoiter the Tibetan camp at Guru, whereupon a general from Lhasa, with a faint retinue, came to interview Colonel Younghusband. The general asked the colonel to retire with his mission to Yating for the purpose of carrying on negotiations, threatening an attack if the mission proceeded. Colonel Younghusband replied that negotiations had been proceeding fruitfully for fifteen years, and that retirement was now impossible.

The Tibetan general withdrew, and Colonel Younghusband ordered his troops to endeavor to disperse the Tibetans blocking the road without firing upon them.

For a time the tactics of the British were successful, but after a while the attitude of the Tibetans became convinced Colonel MacDonald of the necessity of disarming them. The Tibetans number about 1,500, and the British made an effort to disarm them to a smart engagement. The situation for a few moments was critical, Colonel MacDonald and Colonel Younghusband being only a few yards from the advancing Tibetans. Revolvers and bayonets were used and then a rifle fire was resorted to, at which the Tibetans fell, but not before several casualties resulted in the British ranks.

The correspondent of the Mail with the mission was severely wounded.

The Tibetans lost heavily, owing to the inferiority of their weapons, which were matchlock rifles, but they displayed the greatest courage, many of them coming on even after they had been seriously wounded. After the action there were bodies of dead, a long trail of dead and wounded extended to the rear.

After a short halt the advance continued. Nearing the Tibetan camp at Guru a second action took place in which the artillery played the largest part.

Finally the Tibetans retreated over the hills with the exception of about sixty Tibetans who obstinately held the village, which was finally taken by a mounted charge.

Among Tibetans killed were the Hassa general, the military commandant of Phari and Lata and the representative of the Golden Monastery, to whose influence and violent hostility the existing difficulties were largely due.

The British losses are believed to be over 40, while the British casualties are about a dozen.

The British force returned to Tuna this evening and stated that after bearing the Russian Imperial stamp and Russian ammunition were found on the wounded Tibetan officers.

IN SMOOT INQUIRY.

It Will Be Renewed by the Committee on April 20.

Washington, March 31.—Subpoenas have been sent out for witnesses to appear before the senate committee on privileges and elections in the Smoot inquiry on April 20, a postponement being made from the 12th.

SINKS OUT OF SIGHT.

Bald Mountain Disappears and a Lake Takes Its Place.

Caribou, Me., March 31.—Woodsmen who have just returned here bring news that Bald Mountain, a small, steep hill in the Tibogue valley, only a few miles from the New Brunswick line, has disappeared. In its place a small lake now exists.

It is believed the mountain dropped out of sight during the earthquake of March 21, and that the tremor which then shook New England really had its birth in the Maine woods.

Bald Mountain was an odd-shaped cone with extremely steep sides, and was seldom explored. The general belief is that it was the crater of an extinct volcano.

FIGHTING IS CONTINUOUS

Skirmishing Between Pingyang and Wiju Is Constant

MANY JAPANESE KILLED

Korean Spy Shot by the Japs at Pingyang.

HISTORY IS RECALLED

Russian Correspondent Bitter Toward America

London, April 1.—The correspondent of the Daily Telegraph at Seoul reports that there is continuous skirmishing between Ping Yang and Wiju, and that many Japanese have been killed. The correspondent adds that a Korean spy at Ping Yang has been shot by the Japanese.

TO BE BITTER.

St. Petersburg, March 31.—A correspondent of the Russ, who has just returned from Korea, writes that he knows from official sources that the commander of the Vicksburg did not join in the protest of the other commanders against the Japanese entering the port to engage the Varing and Korietz, and later, after the fight, when the Vicksburg sent a surgeon, his services were refused. The tone of the correspondent is very bitter. He adds that he saw the American details of the incident when he arrived at Port Said, but that they are not convincing. He continues:

"I saw the report of one of the captains in which the action was set forth clearly and categorically in its true colors."

WIRELESS WORDS.

London, April 1.—A correspondent of the Times at sea in a wireless telegram via Wai-Hai, Wai, describing the last attempt of the Japanese to bottle up Port Arthur, says:

"After the bombardment of March 23, Vice Admiral Togo waited until better weather before re-attempting to bottle up Port Arthur. The officers who conducted the first attempt insisted upon their right to complete their work. The admiral consented, and the same officers were chosen, but the crews and stokers were selected from new volunteers."

"The moon disappeared at midnight, and the sea was like glass when the desperate enterprise was begun. When within two miles of the goal the frenzied notions of a searchlight showed that suspicion had been awakened, and suddenly a solitary gun announced that the Japanese had been discovered. The Russians sprang to the guns of the batteries and in three minutes the Japanese craft were enclosed in a semi-circle of gun flashes."

SEA WAS CHURNED.

"The sea was churned to a turmoil by falling shells, but there was no hesitation. The torpedoes broke open, and the transports, with the men standing at the life boat stations, steered directly into the inferno. There was then only a mile to traverse, and the safety fuses were ready."

"It was just at 2:30 in the morning when the Chiyo Maru led, with a searchlight beaming upon her and a target for a hundred guns, toward the east side of the entrance. The fuses were set and the crew pushed off just in time. It was a moment of suspense. The charge exploded, sinking her one hundred yards from a point of the east side of the entrance."

STRUCK BY TORPEDO.

"The Fukui Maru next passed on the port side of the Chiyo Maru and dropped anchor. Just as the officers and crew pushed clear there was a dull explosion. She had been struck and sunk in the exact place which the Japanese desired by a torpedo from within the harbor."

"So close were the defending destroyers that the Yevanama Maru was fouled by a Russian destroyer and her crew were scorched by the flames of the discharge from a Russian six-pounder."

"It was a horrible scene, but the Japanese kept their presence of mind throughout and their steadiness was shown by the fact that before she had been fouled by the destroyer the Yevanama Maru passed to the starboard of the Chiyo Maru and reached the center of the channel, where she was hit by a torpedo, which sank her on the west side of the channel, her boat pointing toward the shore. Not a man of the transport's crew were drowned."

"The enterprise failed completely to block the channel, because there were only four transports. It is probable, however, that the channel has been rendered impracticable for the large battleships and it is certain that the Japanese will not rest until the channel has been closed."

"The maneuver was covered by a torpedo division, which, running in close endeavor to draw the fire of the land batteries from the main enterprise. This division remained in action until the crews were rescued, and just before daylight was engaging a Russian destroyer, which remained at the entrance line firing torpedoes during the night. The scream of escaping steam proclaimed that the Russian boat had been damaged in her vitals."

"At daybreak the flotilla drew off under cover of the fleet, which was waiting ten miles outside."

In conclusion, the correspondent describes the bravery and death of Commander Hiras, who had recently been promoted for sinking the Tokohi Maru further up the entrance to Port Arthur on February 24, and of whom he says the Japanese are justly proud.

NOT TILL SEPTEMBER.

Paris, April 1.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Echo de Paris says that the wife of one of General Kuropatkin's orderly officers has received a telegram from her husband saying that the general staff does not believe that there

The Wichita Daily Eagle.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 1904.

IMPORTANT NEWS OF TODAY

- Pages—
1. Congressional Proceedings. Sealed Letter Shut Out. Skirmishes Are Continuous. Flood Damage Increases.
 2. Niblack Not a Candidate. Indian Case Is Decided.
 3. Hogs Were a Dime Lower. Grain Is About Unchanged. Failures Affect Stock Market.
 4. Dead Body of Man Found. Amidon Restrained from Building.
 5. Socialist State Convention. Local News of the Railroads. City in Brief.
 6. Canal Treaty Is Perfect. Patriotic Japanese. Music and Drama.
 7. Blow of Tancred.
 8. China Will Astonish. Some Labor Troubles.

WILL BE RECOMMENDED.

Statehood Bill Prepared by Subcommittee Is Favored.

Washington, March 31.—The statehood bill prepared by the Republican members of the subcommittee of the house committee on territories was considered today by the full subcommittee and will be recommended favorably to the full committee tomorrow.

Russian troops in Manchuria, including Port Arthur and Vladivostok, now number 24,000, and the total may be 30,000 by the end of April and 50,000 by September, when, if the Japanese have not crossed the Yalu, General Kuropatkin will advance and drive them out of Korea.

The only fear in high quarters, according to the writer is the inability of China to restrain the mass of her troops or to prevent troops landing in a Chinese port in event of Japanese success, however, ephemeral.

General Kuropatkin has telegraphed General Mishchenko to avoid any engagements in which the securities of the Russian side should be uncertain.

CALLS ON HAY.

Washington, March 31.—Mr. Takahira, Japanese minister, was among the diplomats who called at the state department today. He and Secretary Hay spent some time in conference upon the far eastern war. The minister was anxious to know whether the Japanese non-combatants in Siberia had been started on their way to Berlin.

American Ambassador McCormick at St. Petersburg has been instructed to bring the matter to the attention of the Russian government and Secretary Hay and Mr. Takahira are now hopeful that the Japanese will soon be safe in the hands of the Japanese ministry at Berlin.

Berlin, March 31.—That Japan already is planning for a rapid removal of her fleet from the coast of Korea is inferred from a journey made by the Japanese naval attaché, Count Takikawa, and a number of higher Japanese officers to the Stettin ship yards today. They made a careful inspection of the yards, noting their capacity for the building of various craft, particularly torpedo boats.

RETURN TO SEOUL.

London, April 1.—The Seoul correspondent of the Daily Mail suggests that the authorities have requested Brig. General Henry T. Allen, United States military observer with the Japanese army, to return to Seoul from Pingyang until they are able to provide him with fitting accommodations.

REPORTS UNTRUE.

Paris, April 1.—The Journal this morning prints an interview which its correspondent at St. Petersburg has had with Secretary Ou of the Chinese legation there, who is in daily communication with Peking. The secretary said that China was determined to remain neutral so long as the Chinese frontiers were respected. Considerable excitement, the secretary said, had been caused by the war in northern China, but the government could not deal with the Chinese who were not dealing with the Chinese in the matter of military operations. All was quiet in northern China, where the relations between the Chinese and European residents there continue to be good. The secretary added that the reports to the effect that the Japanese were existing Chinamen were untrue.

CASSINI TO HAY.

Washington, March 31.—Count Cassini, the Russian ambassador, today addressed the following communication to Secretary Hay:

"By the order of my government I have to inform your excellency that the following announcement has just been made by the commander-in-chief of the Russian fleet in the Pacific ocean:

"As public or private vessels navigating waters where the military operations are carried on and detected at night without stopping, and which after warning by the firing of a gun will not show its colors, will be considered as an enemy and sunk."

MORGAN GOES TO EUROPE.

Wall Street Looks for Some Satisfactory Arrangement.

New York, March 31.—In view of the fact that J. P. Morgan has arranged to leave for Europe next week, Wall street is inclined to expect an early announcement that some sort of satisfactory arrangement has been reached between the Union Pacific interests and the Hill-Morgan interests regarding the distribution of the assets of the Northern Securities company. Several men prominent in Northern Securities matters were called today to express an early announcement that some sort of satisfactory arrangement had been reached between the Union Pacific interests and the Hill-Morgan interests regarding the distribution of the assets of the Northern Securities company. Several men prominent in Northern Securities matters were called today to express an early announcement that some sort of satisfactory arrangement had been reached between the Union Pacific interests and the Hill-Morgan interests regarding the distribution of the assets of the Northern Securities company.

The market fluctuations in the North-western railway stocks were unimportant.

Seoul, March 31.—It is reported that the Russian, on March 27, killed the prefect of Peking Chen for not following their instructions. The Russians are also said to have dispersed the Korean garrison of Wiju after driving the soldiers of their uniforms.

THE WEATHER.

Washington, March 31.—Forecast:—Kanas—Fair Friday and Saturday; warmer Saturday.

Oklahoma and Indian Territory—Fair and colder Friday;